THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of students seeking admission to professional institutions in the field of Tech. Education is increasing year by year. Lakhs of Students appear in the entrance tests conducted by various Institutes, State Governments and other such agencies all over the country each year. Multiplicity of entrance examinations has put tremendous strain & trauma on students along with their parents. It has also resulted in unlimited duplication of work and non-optimisation of resources for conduct of such examinations. Candidates from rural areas and small towns have been the worst sufferers. Keeping this in view, it has been proposed by this Ministry to organise a common entrance test at National level called "NEST". The test is likely to be conducted some time in Jan., 2001.

(c) For the present, it is proposed to cover admissions to engineering Colleges and courses in architecture.

Criteria to open Central Schools

1745. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Schools running in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) what is the criteria for opening of new Central Schools in civilian, cantonment areas and for public sector employees;

(c) how many new Central Schools are proposed to be opened and at what places during 2000 and 2001; and

(d) whether Government are considering to open new schools in the National Capital Region *viz.* Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Bahadurgarh and Faridabad, in the light of increasing population in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) A total number of 869 Kendriya Vidyalayas are running in the country as on date as per State-wise details enclosed in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) The Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened primarily with the objective of catering to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central

Government employees including Defence and paramilitary personnel by providing a common pattern of education.

Kendriya Vidyalayas are also opened in Project Sectors to cater to the educational needs of the employees of Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies and Institutes of Higher Learning on the condition that they would meet all the recurring/non-recurring expenses of the schools.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to open any new Kendriya Vidyalaya due to budgetary constraint. However, proposal to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas at these places may be considered in lieu of other Vidyalayas that may be closed/merged.

Statement

State-wise No. of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Country

Sr. No.	State		No. of Vidyalaya's
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	44
2.	Assam	—	45
3.	Bihar	—	56
4.	Gujarat	—	41
5.	Haryana	—	26
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	18
7.	J&K	—	26
8.	Karnataka	—	32
9.	Kerala	—	27
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	90
11.	Maharashtra	—	52
12.	Manipur	—	05
13.	Meghalaya	—	07
14.	Nagaland	—	07
15.	Orissa	—	30
16.	Punjab	—	40
17.	Rajasthan	—	52
18.	Sikkim	—	01
19.	Tamil Nadu	—	29
20.	Tripura	—	05
21.	Uttar Pradesh	—	125
22.	West Bengal	—	49

Sr.No.	State	No. of Vidyalaya's
23.	A & N Island	03
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	09
25.	Chandigarh	05
26.	Delhi	37
27.	Goa	05
28.	Pondicherry	02
29.	Mizoram	01
	TOTAI.	869

Drop-out rates of boys and girls

1746. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present drop-out fates for boys and girls, both in rural and urban areas, at different stages of school education;

(b) how these compare with fifties, sixties, seventies and eighties; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation, especially for the girl students, in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYS1NGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) According to the available information the drop out rate of boys and girls at different stages of school education is given below:—

	1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	1998-99*
CLASSES I—V					
Boys	61.7	64.5	56.2	40.1	38.62
Girls	70.9	70.9	62.5	46.0	41.22
CLASSES I—VIII					
Boys	75.0	74.6	68.0	59.1	54.4
Girls	85.0	83.4	79.4	65.1	60.09
CLASSES I—X+					
Boys	—	76.81	79.80	67.50	65.44
Girls	—	84.96	86.63	76.96	70.22

* Provisional.
+ The fluctuation in the drop out rate is due to public examination after class X. This information is not available separately for rural and urban areas on an annual basis.

(c) The Central and State Governments have taken several steps to promote education of girls. These include microplanning and community mobilisation;